

Caribbean Solid Waste Management Issues

Puerto Rico's Solid Waste Management Program

- PR Environmental Quality Board (EQB)
 - Permitting Authority
 - Authorized for RCRA Subtitle D Municipal Solid Waste Landfill (MSWLF) Program in 1994
- PR Solid Waste Management Authority (SWMA)
 - Planning and financing responsibility (also some operational responsibility)
 - Prepared solid waste management plans or updates in 1986, 1991, 2004, 2008 (draft)

PR EQB's MSWLF Program Regulations

- In 1997, Puerto Rico amended their Solid Waste Management Regulations
 - modified lateral expansion definition, making it inconsistent with Federal regulations
 - exempted municipalities and municipal landfills from complying with financial assurance requirements
- PR EQB has yet to address EPA's comments on these deficiencies

Next Steps: PR

- Pursue regulatory fixes through PR EQB
- Encourage Governor to Approve Draft 2008 Solid Waste Management Plan
- Assist PR SWMA Promote Waste Diversion Activities
- Scrap Tires (??)

COMPLIANCE

- **This led Region 2 to use RCRA 7003 Imminent and Substantial Endangerment authority to order the closure of five landfills.**
- **EQB has not, since issuance of these Orders, increased its compliance activity at the remaining 27 landfills.**
- **As we have done with the previous administration in Puerto Rico, we will be raising this issue to Governor Fortuno and senior officials within EQB.**



Puerto Rico Scrap Tire Management

- **A breakdown in the scrap tire management system in Puerto Rico - a result of the April 2008 discontinuation of payments by the Puerto Rico Treasury Department to scrap tire transporters – has resulted in scrap tire piles accumulating throughout the island.**
- **The scrap tire piles pose a risk of fire safety, and provided breeding ground for mosquitoes, a prime carrier of Dengue fever.**
- **In December 2008, a state of emergency was declared to address the tire crisis and authorize the release of \$5.5 million from the Emergency Fund to pay the transporters. However, we are concerned that this is insufficient to fully address the issue.**
- **We are sending a letter Governor Fortuno, urging that his administration focus on this issue.**